

DAILY BULLETIN

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AMERICA: HELPING THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN

A Fact Sheet

President Bush and his administration are committed to ending the violence and providing assistance to the suffering people of Darfur.

The U.S. is the largest, single international donor to Sudan, providing more than 86 percent of the food distributed by the World Food Program, and more than \$1.3 billion to fund humanitarian, reconstruction, and peacekeeping needs in both Darfur and other regions in Sudan.

President Bush and senior officials have relentlessly worked to end genocide in Darfur. The U.S. is working to implement Comprehensive Peace Agreement provisions and to support the institutional development of the Government of Southern Sudan as part of U.S. efforts to promote peace, stability, and democratic transformation. We are contributing to reducing mortality and to helping over 3.5 million people suffering from violence and deprivation in Darfur.

U.S. Support to Darfur Peace Talks

The U.S. is providing strong support for African Union (AU)-mediated peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria, between



Sudan's Government of National Unity and the Darfur rebel movements.

A final peace accord remains the best long-term solution to achieving peace and reconciliation in Darfur.

The U.S. welcomes the recent AU-sponsored negotiating text, and is pressing parties to seek a political settlement by the AU and UNSC as soon as possible.

U.S. Support to Peacekeeping

The African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) began in July 2004 and has grown to approximately 7,300 protection force troops, military observers, civilian police, and civilian staff in Darfur.

The U.S. constructed and continues to support 34 AMIS camps, maintenance of vehicles and communications equipment, training of Nigerian troops, and along with NATO helped to airlift Rwandan troops and helped train senior and midlevel AU officers.

The U.S. has contributed some \$220 million since 2004 and has requested additional funding in the FY 2006 supplemental for continued support of AMIS.

The U.S. has supported an increased NATO role in assisting AMIS to develop improved planning and logistics capacity and continued NATO airlift.

In the south of Sudan, the U.S. has contributed \$132 million to the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) peacekeeping effort in FY 2005 and \$113 million so far in FY 2006.

U.S. Action Through The UN

The U.S. has led UNSC actions on Sudan and Darfur, leading the world in calling for a speedy transition from AMIS to a larger UN peacekeeping force as called for by the AU and noted in UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR)1663.

It supports holding those responsible for genocide accountable and supports effective implementation of targeted sanctions. The U.S. did not oppose UNSC referral of crimes and atrocities committed in Darfur to the International Criminal Court.

With U.S. leadership, the UNSC approved UNSCR 1591 sanctions against four specific individuals responsible for committing heinous crimes on the people of Darfur.

The U.S. supports the on-going deployment of UN peacekeeping troops in Southern Sudan and an early expansion into Darfur.

U.S. COUNTERTERRORISM COORDINATOR CRUMPTON ANNOUNCES NEW REPORT

Country Reports on Terrorism 2005 finds terror groups smaller, more sophisticated

By David I. McKeeby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Thanks to the successes of the U.S.-led multinational counterterrorism effort, terror organizations are now smaller and more sophisticated, and more challenging than ever to bring to justice, says Ambassador Henry Crumpton, coordinator of the State Department's counterterrorism office.

An annual report developed jointly by the State Department and the National Counterterrorism Center, Country Reports on Terrorism 2005 is produced to provide Congress information on progress in the fight against al-Qaida and the 41 other identified terrorist groups active in the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia, Crumpton told journalists in an April 28 press briefing announcing the release.

Among the broader trends identified in the report, Crumpton said that terrorist groups are forming smaller, harder-to-detect cells; becoming more technologically sophisticated, particularly in their use of the Internet; and are building closer links with international criminal networks. He also said many terrorist groups continue to focus their efforts in Iraq to provoke sectarian violence and derail democracy, making continued international support of the Iraqi government essential.

FORCE BUYS TIME, SPACE TO DEFEAT TERRORISM

Military force alone cannot defeat terrorism, Crumpton said. "We must fight the enemy with precise, calibrated force to buy space and time to transform the environment and the conditions which terrorists exploit."

He said the report emphasizes the need for a multilevel strategy “utilizing all the instruments of statecraft” to counter violent extremism and disrupt terrorist networks globally; using regional partnerships to deny terrorists safe haven; and improving security by using development assistance programs to help countries build institutions that support the rule of law and address political and economic injustices.

“This is not just the right thing to do; it also enhances our partners’ capacity to resist the terrorist threat and address conditions that terrorists exploit,” Crumpton said.

The report finds that al-Qaida’s core leadership no longer has effective global command and control of its networks, Crumpton said. Confined to an increasingly smaller territory along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, Crumpton says that al-Qaida’s senior leaders increasingly are frustrated by their lack of control and “desperate to claim Iraq as their own,” resorting to propaganda to demonstrate their continuing influence by inspiring terrorist attacks.

“Al-Qaida and its affiliates are attacking what they fear the most, the development of a global civic society -- a society characterized by global networks of liberal institutions, free speech, democratic organizations, free-market forces, and law,” Crumpton said.

Although international cooperation has succeeded in denying them safe haven in Iraq and elsewhere, the ambassador said, “We must maintain unrelenting pressure against al-Qaida -- we know they aim to attack the U.S. homeland and seek to match or surpass the terror of 9/11.”

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

Crumpton said that the report features regional overviews and reports on the terrorist situation in individual countries, marking not only the progress made but also the challenges remaining.

Among the examples of success he cited:

- In Colombia, local police forces have returned to all 1,098 municipalities throughout the country. They successfully have demobilized 23,000 paramilitary fighters, and are making progress in their fight against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC).

- In the Philippines, authorities have regained control of the island of Basilan and, increasingly, the island of Jolo, both areas of operation for Abu Sayaff and Jemiah Islamiya.

- In Indonesia, leaders launched a broad counterterrorism campaign that has gained momentum, featuring new legislation, successful prosecution of terrorist operatives and an emphasis on moderate religious theology to blunt radicalization.

- In Saudi Arabia, the government is taking steps to counter radicalization, opened a Financial Investigation Unit and has captured or killed the top 26 senior al-Qaida operatives inside their country.

The report also identifies several countries that the United States considers state sponsors of terrorism. Most significant among them is Iran, which Crumpton called, “the premier state sponsor of terrorism, provid[ing] a national safe haven for its own operatives and members of al-Qaida and Hezbollah.”

Iran’s ongoing vocal support of terrorist attacks against other countries, combined with its failure to disclose the true extent of its nuclear program to the international community also raise the continuing concern that it may facilitate future terrorist attacks utilizing weapons of mass destruction, Crumpton said.

The full text of the new report is available on the State Department Web site: <http://www.state.gov>

For more information, see Response to Terrorism: http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html

U.S. CLOSER TO WTO CASE AGAINST CHINA OVER COPYRIGHTS PIRACY

Annual USTR report on intellectual property cites problems in Russia too

By Bruce Odessey
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Once again China has topped the U.S. annual list of countries criticized for inadequate protection of copyrights, patents and other intellectual property rights (IPR), the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) reports.

With regard to China, USTR appeared to move closer to filing what would be the first-ever challenge in the World Trade Organization (WTO) against intellectual piracy and counterfeiting.

“Faced with only limited progress by China in addressing certain deficiencies in IPR protection and enforcement, the United States will step up consideration of its WTO dispute settlement options,” USTR said in the report released April 28.

Russia also came in for strong criticism in the 2006 report on implementation of a U.S. law called Special 301. Under this provision of the Trade Act of 1974, USTR must designate each year priority foreign countries for investigation of IPR practices; ultimately, the United States could impose retaliatory trade sanctions against countries that fail to resolve complaints.

USTR estimates that in 2005 85 to 93 percent of all sales of copyrighted products in China were pirated, “indicating little to no improvement.” Among products and industries showing evidence of IPR infringement were films, music and sound recordings, publishing, software, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, information technology, apparel, athletic footwear, textile fabrics and floor coverings, consumer goods, electrical equipment, automotive parts and industrial products, USTR said.

“China does not provide American copyright materials, inventions, brands, and trade secrets the intellectual property protection and enforcement to which they are entitled,” the report said.

On top of the existing heightened scrutiny USTR gives to China, the agency said, it will conduct a special review of IPR protection and enforcement at the provincial level.

The report identifies four “hot spots” in China for special attention: Guangdong province, Beijing city, Zhejiang province and Fujian province.

According to USTR, Guangdong is the center of large-scale counterfeit and pirate manufacturing in China for goods ranging from low-cost household items to high-technology computer equipment.

U.S. industry has called the Silk Street Market near the U.S. Embassy in Beijing “perhaps the single biggest symbol of China’s IP enforcement problems.” USTR said that shops in Beijing sell pirated CDs and DVDs with official permission and that markets reportedly sell

infringing software loaded onto computers. The report blamed a number of Chinese practices for inadequate IPR enforcement, including poor coordination among government agencies, protectionism and corruption.

“Most of all, China suffers from chronic over-reliance on toothless administrative enforcement and underutilization of criminal remedies,” the report said. “China’s own 2004 data showed that it channeled more than 99 percent of copyright and trademark cases into its administrative systems and turned less than one percent of cases over to the police.”

RUSSIA

Some IPR violations can even pose health and safety risks. USTR expressed concern about the proliferation of counterfeit pharmaceutical manufacturing in China and Russia.

Russia, which is negotiating for WTO accession, was cited in the report for increasing optical disc pirate production, especially on government-owned property, and pirated music available for downloading from Russian Web sites.

USTR said also that a proposed change in Russia’s civil code for replacing existing IPR laws “raises questions about its compliance with international norms and the possible adverse effect it could have, if passed, on IPR protection and enforcement in Russia.”

13 NATIONS PLACED ON IPR “PRIORITY WATCH LIST”

In addition to China and Russia, USTR said it was giving the highest level of IPR scrutiny to 11 other countries placed on what it calls the priority watch list: Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela.

Another 34 trading partners were placed on what is called the watch list, for which USTR employs a slightly lower level of scrutiny.

Due to progress on IPR, USTR said, Kuwait and Pakistan were moved down from the priority watch list to the watch list, as Ukraine and the Philippines were earlier in the year. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Slovak Republic and Uruguay were removed from the watch list, USTR said.

The report said USTR will perform what it calls out-of-cycle reviews for five countries that could result in changes in Special 301 status before the next full report a year from now: Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Latvia and Saudi Arabia.

The 2006 Special 301 Report and a related press release are available on the USTR Web site:
<http://www.ustr.gov>

For additional information on U.S. policies, see Protecting Intellectual Property Rights:
http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/intellectual_property.html

U.S., CHINA AGREE TO COOPERATE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES

China will work to enhance Chinese-language study in the United States

Karen Hughes, under secretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs, and China's education minister, Zhou Ji, signed the renewal of the United States-China Education Agreement for Cooperation in Educational Exchanges, the State Department announced April 28.

Among other commitments in the agreement, signed April 20, China agreed to increase its co-funding of the Fulbright program and to help to enhance Chinese-language study in the United States.

The Fulbright program is the flagship of U.S. government international educational programs sponsored and was designed to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries." The Fulbright program has provided more than 250,000 participants - chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential - with the opportunity to study and teach in each other's countries, exchange ideas and develop joint solutions to address shared concerns.

For more information on U.S. policies, see The United States and China:
http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/china.html

More information on the Fulbright program is available on the State Department Web site:
<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright/>

Following is the text of a State Department press release on the agreement:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
April 28, 2006

United States and China Sign Agreement for Cooperation in Educational Exchanges

On April 20, 2006, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes and the People's Republic of China (PRC) Education Minister Zhou Ji co-signed the renewal of the United States-China Education Agreement for Cooperation in Educational Exchanges. Held on the occasion of President Hu Jintao's visit to Washington, the signing ceremony took place in the Treaty Room of the U.S. Department of State.

The agreement renews the two nations' shared commitment to providing mutually beneficial opportunities for cooperation and exchange in the educational field, including measures to enhance and increase exchange opportunities. Recognizing that open, merit-based competition is one of the defining principles of academic exchanges, the two parties agreed to explore ways in which the Fulbright Program in China can more fully embody this tenet.

The signing of this agreement highlights the fact that America welcomes foreign students and underscores the importance of the President's National Security Language Initiative and the critical role of Chinese language learning in building America's foreign language capacity. Likewise, the Chinese have demonstrated their commitment to educational exchanges by increasing their co-funding of the Fulbright Program and helping to enhance Chinese language study in the United States.

Plases Note: Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: <http://geneva.usmission.gov/>

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